

SFMA News

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A monthly newsletter

SFMA 51st Anniversary Annual Meeting

The South Florida Manufacturers Association proudly invites you to the 51st Annual Meeting on **September 26, 2011**, entitled "The Future of Florida Manufacturing". Last year, we reflected on our first 50 years of service. Now, it is time to look forward to the next 50 years.

The day begins with the The Future of Florida Manufacturing Symposium. This Symposium will feature sessions relating to the main building blocks for the future, which are: Workforce Development, Economic Development, Education and International Trade. Following the Symposium is the Networking Reception and Expo. The event will conclude at the Annual Meeting Dinner with special presentation by Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll(invited), followed by our keynote speaker, Raul Pupo. Get more information or [register here](#).

Manufacturing is key to Florida economy

With the state's unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent, creating jobs is a paramount concern for most Floridians. The real estate crisis, wavering tourism and the loss of the shuttle program have hit Florida especially hard. Job creation is a key topic among our political leaders.

However, some jobs are more valuable to us than others. Instead of focusing indiscriminately on unemployment numbers, we must concentrate on the creation of high-wage, skilled jobs such as those in manufacturing. A recent study conducted by Florida TaxWatch shows just how important manufacturing is to our state...[read more](#).

Congressman Deutch Tours Habilitation Center

U.S. Congressman Ted Deutch, whose 19th congressional district encompasses parts of Palm Beach and Broward counties, recently toured the Habilitation Center in suburban Boca Raton. The visit was organized by the South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA). As a leading proponent of job creation for all Americans, Congressman Deutch

was quite impressed with the Center's two dynamic enterprises, Manufacturing and the Plant Nursery, that provide meaningful, compensable work opportunities for persons with special needs. They are also vital sources of operating revenue.

Congressman Deutch was apprised on the exemplary partnership that has long existed between the Center and SFMA, which most recently furnished the agency with expert consultation to help it achieve compliance with all of the applicable ISO standards. The Center also has the distinction of

being named *Manufacturer of the Year* by SFMA, which it is extremely proud of. Persons with disabilities are a vital part of the workforce, and this award clearly underscored that point.

To learn more about the Habilitation Center, its many programs and services, and its micro industries, you can go to its website at www.habcenter.com or call (561) 483-4200.